PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Yoshihiro KATSUMATA and
Hideya KINOSHITA

Rule 53(b) Divisional Application of
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/630,716 Group Art Unit:1711

Confirmation No.: Not Assigned Examiner:

Filed: November 13, 2001

For: INK WASTAGE ABSORBER AND INK SUPPORTER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert before the first line the sentence:

This is a divisional of Application No. 09/630,716 filed August 2, 2000, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 5-10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please enter the following amended claims:

1 (amended). An ink wastage absorber for pigment or dye ink comprising a flexible polyurethane foam having an air-permeability of 1.0 cc/cm^2/sec or more.

14 (amended). A process of producing an ink wastage absorber according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein said surface active agent is a denaturated sodium succinate.

Preliminary Amendment
Rule 53(b) Divisional Application of
U.S. Appln. No. 09/630,716

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee C. Wright
Registration No. 41,441

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: November 13, 2001

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The following sentence is inserted before the first line:

This is a divisional of Application No. 09/630,716 filed August 2, 2000, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 5-10 are canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1 (amended). An ink wastage absorber for pigment or dye ink comprising a flexible polyurethane foam having an air-permeability of 1.0 cc/cm^2/sec or more.

14 (amended). A process of producing an ink wastage absorber according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein said surface active agent is a denaturated sodium succinate.